GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7353
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002
U.S. REACTIONS OVER GUJARAT INCIDENTS
RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State who visited India recently had expressed her concern over the incidents in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) & (b) Media reports have quoted the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christina Rocca as expressing, during her visit to India, 9-10 April 2002, concern over the recent Gujarat incidents.

(c) Government has clearly stated that it rejects any intrusive criticism or prescription with regard to handling of India`s internal developments. Government has, however, noted that in an interview published on 3 May 2002 in The Hindu, the U. S. National Security Adviser Condoleeza Rice had stated `we have been impressed with the Indian Government, which has reacted so strongly to the sectarian violence .... We believe that India is a great democracy, that the Vajpayee Government is leading India very well and it will do the right thing when it comes to investigating the violence`.